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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 112
By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Hugh Harris retired Chief
of the Columbia Police Department.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Hugh Harris of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was an exemplary public servant and consummate police officer who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of the Water Valley Community, he was the son of the late Luther Hubert Harris, Sr., and Beulah Pigg Harris; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Hugh Harris bravely served in the United States Army in Germany as a machine gunner on Half Track of the First Armored Division, and honorably earned five service ribbons and a Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris served the Columbia Police Department with probity for twenty-eight years, first as an officer and later as the Chief of Police, in which position he earned the

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respect of the officers under his charge and his fellow citizens for the exemplary quality of his work and his unwavering commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, Hugh Harris was an active and devout member of the Craft Memorial United Methodist Church, which he faithfully served as President of the Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Loretta Gieske Harris, and will also be greatly missed by his two daughters, Deborah Turchetta and Norma Jean Powell; his son, Ricky Harris; his two brothers, Henry Harris and Freeman Harris; his five sisters, Virginia Reed, Bettye Harris, JoAnn Biggs, Linda Venable, and Marie Peters; his three grandchildren, Heather Powell, Wesley Powell, and Molly Grace Harris; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harris was preceded in death by his first wife, Geneva Scott Harris, to whom he was married for twenty-eight years, and by his brother, Robert J. Harris; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and valuable member of many civic, fraternal, and professional organizations, including the Golden Kiwanis Club; the Tennessee Law Enforcement Association; the Tennessee and Mississippi Sheriffs' and Peace Officers' Associations; the Tennessee Defense Forces; Wagon Wheelers; the board of the Maury Progressive Credit Union; a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and also served for fifty continuous years as a member of the Herbert Griffin American Legion Post # 19; and

WHEREAS, he was a diligent charter member of the Fraternal Order of Police; the Benton Masonic Lodge #111; the 32 Degree Scottish Rite Mason; and the Al Menah Shrine Temple; and

WHEREAS, Hugh Harris leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in his career with the Columbia Police Department; compassion and loyalty in private life; and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Hugh Harris, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to his family and community, and the courage and honor with which he served the Columbia Police Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Hugh Harris.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.